

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

a.) Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A multi fiber optic medical probe, comprising:  
at least two optical fibers;  
~~side-firing~~ side-coupling terminations for the at least two optical fibers; and  
at least one capillary tube having at least two bores, each of the optical fibers  
being inserted into a different one of the bores with the at least one  
capillary tube at the side-coupling terminations of the at least two optical  
fibers, at least one capillary tube providing beam shaping apertures for  
controlling light propagating between the ~~side-firing~~ side-coupling  
terminations and a region lateral to the probe.
2. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at  
least two optical fibers comprise just two optical fibers.
3. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at  
least two optical fibers comprises eight or more optical fibers.
4. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at  
least two optical fibers comprise at least one single mode fiber and at least one  
multimode fiber.
5. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 1, wherein a core  
diameter of at least one of the optical fibers is less than about 10 micrometers and  
a core diameter of at least one other optical fiber of the at least two optical fibers  
is greater than 100 micrometers.
6. (Currently amended) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein the ~~side-firing~~ side-coupling terminations comprise angled endfaces for  
the at least two optical fibers.

7. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 6, wherein the angled endfaces are formed by polishing.

8. (Currently amended) A multi fiber optic medical probe, comprising:  
at least two optical fibers;

~~A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 1, wherein the side firing terminations comprise~~ at least one coreless block to which the optical fibers are coupled, the coreless block comprising side-coupling terminations for the at least two optical fibers and beam shaping apertures for controlling light propagating between the side-coupling terminations and a region adjacent to the probe, wherein the side-coupling terminations are arranged lateral to each other with respect to an axis of the probe.

9. (Currently amended) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 8, wherein the side-coupling terminations comprises an angled endface of the at least one coreless block ~~comprises an angled endface.~~

10. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 9, wherein the at least one angled endface is formed by polishing.

11. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 9, wherein the at least one angled endface is metal coated.

12. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 8, wherein the at least one coreless block is attached to ends of the optical fibers.

13. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 8, wherein the at least one coreless block is fused to ends of the optical fibers.

14. (cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim ~~14~~ 1, wherein the capillary tube comprises multiple bores, one for each of the at least two optical fibers.

16. (Currently amended) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 1, further comprising separate capillary tubes over the ~~side-firing~~ side-coupling terminations of the at least two optical fibers.
17. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 16, wherein the capillary tubes are attached to each other.
18. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 16, wherein the capillary tubes are bonded to each other.
19. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 16, further comprising a spacer block between the capillary tubes.
20. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 16, further comprising a wedge spacer between the capillary tubes for controlling an angle between the optical axes between the beam shaping apertures.
21. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 20, wherein the wedge spacer is integral with one of the capillary tubes.
22. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 1, wherein the beam shaping apertures are longitudinally offset along an axis of the probe with respect to each other.
23. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least three optical fibers, wherein one of the optical fiber is single mode fiber and other fibers are multimode fibers.
24. (Currently amended) A method of gathering optical information using a medical probe, comprising:  
inserting the medical probe into a body of a patient, and then:  
transmitting an optical signal in a first optical fiber;  
directing the optical signal to a region lateral to the probe with a side-firing termination ~~to~~ for the first optical fiber;

controlling a beam shape of the optical signal with a capillary tube having a first bore in which the side-firing termination is installed;  
collecting optical information with a second optical fiber, which is inserted into a second bore in the same or a different capillary tube and  
transmitting the optical information to an analyzer.

25. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the step of collecting optical information comprises collecting the optical information with multiple optical fibers.

26. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the step of transmitting the optical signal in the first optical fiber comprises transmitting the optical signal in single mode fiber.

27. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the step of collecting optical information comprises collecting the optical information with at least one multimode optical fiber.

28. (Currently amended) A multi fiber optic medical probe, comprising:  
at least one single mode optical fiber;  
at least one multimode optical fiber;  
~~side-firing~~ side-coupling terminations for the optical fibers;  
at least one capillary tube having at least two bores, each of the single mode optical fiber and the multimode optical fiber being inserted into a different one of the bores with the at least one capillary tube at the side-coupling terminations having beam-shaping apertures.

29. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 28, wherein the at least two optical fibers comprise just two optical fibers.

30. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 28, wherein the at least two optical fibers comprises eight or more optical fibers.

31. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 28, wherein a core diameter of the single mode optical fiber is less than about 10 micrometers and a core diameter of the multimode fiber is greater than 100 micrometers.

32. (Currently amended) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 28, wherein the ~~side-firing~~ side-coupling terminations comprise angled endfaces for the at least two optical fibers.

33. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 32, wherein the angled endfaces are formed by polishing.

34. (Currently amended) A multi fiber optic medical probe, comprising:

at least one single mode optical fiber;

at least one multimode optical fiber;

~~A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 28, wherein the side-firing terminations comprise~~ at least one coreless block to which the single mode optical fiber and the multimode optical fiber are coupled, the at least one coreless block providing side-coupling terminations for the single mode optical fiber and the multimode optical fiber, wherein the side-coupling terminations are arranged lateral to each other with respect to an axis of the probe.

35. (Currently amended) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 34, wherein the side-coupling terminations comprise an angled endface of the at least one coreless block ~~comprises an angled endface.~~

36. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 35, wherein the at least one angled endface is formed by polishing.

37. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 36, wherein the at least one angled endface is coated.

38. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 34, wherein the at least one coreless block is attached to ends of the optical fibers.

39. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 34, wherein the at least one coreless block is fused to ends of the optical fibers.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently amended) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim ~~40~~ 28, wherein the capillary tube comprises multiple bores for each of the at least two optical fibers.

42. (Currently amended) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 28, further comprising separate capillary tubes over the ~~side-firing~~ side-coupling terminations of the at least two optical fibers.

43. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 42, wherein the capillary tubes are attached to each other.

44. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 42, wherein the capillary tubes are bonded to each other.

45. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 42, further comprising a spacer block between the capillary tubes.

46. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 42, further comprising a wedge spacer between the capillary tubes for controlling an angle between the optical axes between the beam shaping apertures.

47. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 46, wherein the wedge spacer is integral with one of the capillary tubes.

48. (new) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a catheter head comprising an outer casing containing the side-coupling terminations.

49. (new) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 8, further comprising a catheter head comprising an outer casing containing the side-coupling terminations.

50. (new) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 28, further comprising a catheter head comprising an outer casing containing the side-coupling terminations.

51. (new) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 34, further comprising a catheter head comprising an outer casing containing the side-coupling terminations.

52. (new) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 1, further comprising eight optical fibers having corresponding side-coupling terminations directed radially outward from a head of the probe.

53. (new) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 28, further comprising eight optical fibers having corresponding side-coupling terminations directed radially outward from a head of the probe.